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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

#5/A

17-26-99

RP

In re Application of:
MINORU TAKEBE)
International Application No. PCT/JP98/03719)
International Filing Date: August 21, 1998)
For: BENEFICIAL MICROORGANISM)
PROPAGATION-PROMOTING MATERIAL AND)
A PROCESS FOR PREPARING THE SAME)

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Hon. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir,

Please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

— In Claim 4, line 1, change "1, 2 or 3" to --1 or 2--.

Add new Claim 8 as follows:

--8) A beneficial microorganism propagation-promoting material
according to Claim 3, wherein said beneficial microorganism is at least one selected from
Eumycetes, lactic acid bacteria and bifidobacteria.--.

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully submits that the above amendments to the claims
are only for the purpose of rewriting claims so that they comply with 37 CFR 1.75, and
no new matter is introduced via the amendment.